



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: N. Aoyama
Serial No.: 09/376,651
Filed: August 18, 1998
TITLE: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

Examiner: _____
Group Art Unit: 2854
Docket No.: JA9-98-073

Comp. D.

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L. Spruell

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 29, 2001.

David Victor

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to a First Office Action dated February 28, 2001 in a Continuation Prosecution Application (CPA) filed on December 6, 2000. In this First Office Action the Examiner rejected all pending claims 2-31 in view of prior art. Applicants have amended certain claims and added claims 32-37. Applicants submit that the pending claims are in now in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2, 10, and 18 and add claims 32-37 as follows and as shown in the "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made", submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121.

2. (Twice Amended) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:
at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and
a feed assistance member comprising:
(i) a shaft;